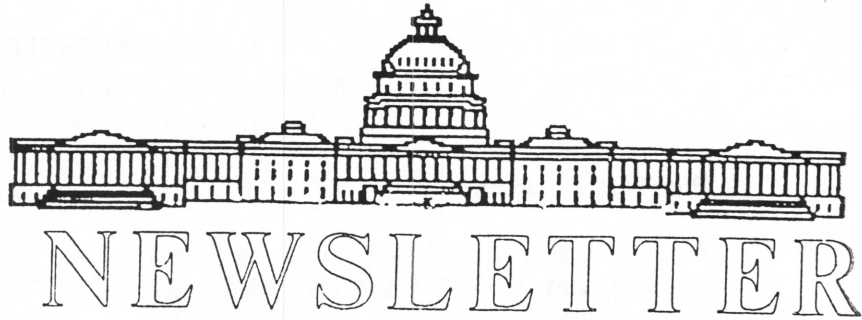# CATS NEWSLETTER

The Official Journal of the Capital Area Timex/Sinclair Users Group

XPRESIDENTIAL SCRAMBLINGS

Well, at our last meeting under the old constitution, we managed to agree(almost to a "person") on a simplification of our organization's implementing document. We still have rules under which we shall operate, but we are less structured now and, it is hoped, more flexible.

I am writing these lines because I promised our next month's meeting's CHAIR, George Rey, (a volunteer no less) that I'd do the honors this month.

NEXT MEETING IS AT 12 A.M., AUGUST 14TH, ANNNNNNND IT WILL BE HELD AT THE HYATTSVILLE LIBRARY - SEE HOW-TO-REACH DIRECTIONS ON THIS PAGE.

Along with the CHAIR and VICE-CHAIR, or next meeting will be graced by a Recording SECRETARY selected by lottery at last meeting. Just guess who the lucky person turned out to be! None other than yours truly-- it's good that I didn't spend any money trying to hit the Powerball lottery.

Business item-- our treasury records were audited and found to be in super-excellent condition. Barry Washington once again deserves our hearty thanks for his well-done job.

Another person, a non-member at that, deserves heartfelt thanks for TWO reasons; Sarah Fisher 1) filled in for our gallivanting-in-Hawaii Editor and put together the newsletter which you all perused and wondered over, and 2) made the presentation at the meeting on INTERNET and other accessible founts of information, data, and wisdom come to life for us as she took us afield in a couple of areas so we could see some of what is available to most of us for a local telephone call. (A "non-standard" wire-link made it possible.

As my last semi-official act, I'd like to thank the hard-core folk who have continued coming to meetings throughout this last difficult year and made the effort to "sound-off" about what they saw wrong with our group and provided input on what should be done to keep us going and so, as the sun slowly sinks in the West, we say goodbye to ROBERTOS REGLAS DE ORDEN.

> To get to the Hyattsville LIbrary:
> Find Adelphi Road, then proceed
> north from Hwy. 410 one block.
> It's on the West side of the street.

CATS' CONSTITUTION
Amended 05/04/91 (non-member n/l subscriptions)
Amendment 07/10/93 (streamlining)

ARTICLE ONE: Name of organization

This constitution creates an organization to be known as the Capital Area Timex/Sinclair Users Group (CATS.) CATS shall be a voluntary, not for profit organization.

ARTICLE TWO: Purpose

Section One: General

The purpose of CATS shall be to create and maintain a spirit of helpfulness among owners and users of the Timex/Sinclair (T/S) family of computers, and to educate the membership in the uses and applications of these computers.

Section Two: Newsletter

CATS shall publish a newsletter monthly, or otherwise as the Users Group shall direct, to record the activities of CATS, to announce events of interest to the membership, and to exchange ideas concerning T/S computer matters.

Section Three: Miscellaneous

CATS shall serve as a clearinghouse for information on the T/S family of computers. It shall act as a group to make discount purchases. CATS does not assume any obligation to intervene on behalf of any member or other person in connection with any legal proceeding.

ARTICLE THREE: Meetings

Section One: General

Meeting shall be held on the second Saturday of each month or as the Users Group may direct. Organizational business may be transacted at any meeting at which a quorum (see Article Three Section Four) is present. The meetings may be conducted informally unless Robert's Rules of Order Revised is invoked by a majority of those present.

Section Two: Annual

A meeting shall be held each year in conjunction with the June general meeting for the purpose of electing officers.

Section Three: Quorum

A quorum for the general and the annual meetings shall consist of five members IN ATTENDANCE OF WHICH AT LEAST ONE MUST BE AN ELECTED OFFICIAL OF CATS.

ARTICLE FOUR: Officers and the newsletter editor

Section One: Officers

The officers of CATS shall consist of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer. All officers shall be members of CATS and shall serve without compensation.

Section Two: Newsletter editor

A newsletter editor who shall be a member of CATS, shall be appointed by the President and approved by a majority at a general meeting.

ARTICLE FIVE: Duties of officers

Section One: Chairperson

The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings described in Article Three, shall appoint and abolish temporary committees.

The Chairperson shall appoint a replacement for any officer of the Users Group.

Section Two: Vice-Chairperson

The Vice Chairperson shall preside at meetings in the absence of the Chairperson.

Section Three: Recording Secretary

The Recording Secretary shall keep a written record of all meetings described in Article Three.

Section Four: Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all monies belonging to CATS and shall represent CATS to the general public. No extraordinary expenditure shall be made by the Treasurer without the approval of the Users Group (see Article Eight Section One.) The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of general organization accounts and shall report on the state of the finance of CATS at the general meetings. On the expiration of the term of office of the Treasurer all monies, accounts, records, and receipts shall be turned over to the incoming Treasurer.

Section Five: Corresponding Secretary

The Corresponding Secretary shall be responsible for receiving mail directed to CATS. The Corresponding Secretary shall be responsible either for answering the mail, if it is general in nature, or for routing to an appropriate member for a response and/or action. The corresponding secretary shall be responsible for reviewing significant transactions with the membership, either through the newsletter or at general meetings.

ARTICLE SIX: Election of officers

Section One: Term of Office

The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Recording Secretary shall be pro-tem positions, and shall serve for one month. The term of office for all other officers of the Users Group shall be one year. All terms shall COMMENCE AT THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING at which they were chosen.

Section Two: Nominations

Nominations for the pro-tem positions will be generated each month. Nominations for the yearly positions shall be made at the June general meeting.

Section Three: Elections

The presiding Chairperson shall conduct the election.

ARTICLE SEVEN: Membership, dues, and newsletter subscriptions

Section One: Membership

A Membership in CATS shall last for twelve months and shall include a newsletter subscription. A membership may include an entire family, but it entitles the family to only one vote.

Section Two: Dues

Dues shall be determined by a majority vote of the membership at a general meeting.

Section Three: Non-Member newsletter subscription

A Non-Member newsletter subscription shall be available for a twelve month period. Its rate shall be determined by the Users Group.

ARTICLE EIGHT: Finances

Section One: Obligations

Authority for the payment of bills shall be made by the Users Group at general meetings.

Section Two: Authorized signatures

CATS' checks shall be signed only by the Treasurer or Corresponding Secretary.

Section Three: Audit

An audit of all CATS' financial records shall be conducted immediately following the closing of the Treasurer's term of office and shall be presented to the membership at the next general meeting. The Audit shall be conducted by two members of CATS. They shall be appointed by the Chairperson.

Section Four: Projects

Official projects shall be approved by the Users Group. Monies from all official projects of CATS shall be routed through the Treasurer. No Property of CATS shall be disposed of without a majority vote of the membership at a general meeting.

ARTICLE NINE: Standards of conduct

It is the policy of CATS that software piracy and theft of intellectual property are incompatible with its goals.

ARTICLE TEN: Amendments

This constitution may be amended by raising the issue from the floor at any general meeting. The proposal shall be printed in the newsletter and presented at the next general meeting. A two thirds (2/3) vote of the membership present shall be required to approve the proposed amendment. The final version shall be printed in the next newsletter.

Just the FAX, Please
Mark Fisher

I'm about as luddite as the next CATS member - happily playing with my ZX-81's 2K of memory while the world whizzes into 8 megabytes of RAM for windows - BUT. Every so often, a new invention is actually useful : Call waiting (no, just joking!)

The most recent new technology that I've "discovered?" FAXes. It sounded like a great way to boost electronic sales. "Get a machine for $400.00 that will do the same thing as the phone you already own!" That was a sales pitch I found easy to resist.

But the water was beginning to drip through the dam when my wife came home, telling me how efficient it was to FAX a colleague a note about an upcoming meeting - no 15 minutes schmoozing, a hard record left with your target, and confirmation of receipt (no complaints about the mails!).

There was a positive damp spot below the dam when I thought of the ease of porting digitized images into my machine - just FAX them home.

The breach in the dam was when I realized that I didn't have to buy one of those $400.00 machines - I could get the ability to send a FAX directly from a computer for $45.00 to $80.00. My brother has been doing this for years, it turns out. But still... I'm cheap. I'll wait.

Minutes of CATS meeting
of 7/10/93
Recording secretary, Stan Guttenberg

1) Report of Audit Committee. Ruth reported EXCELLENT.

2) Vote on changing Constitution for "New CATS" organization.

    a: Remove Vice President office.

    b: Remove use of Robert's Rules of Order.

    c: Alternate signature for check signing in absence of treasurer.

3) Tom Robbins proposed: Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson to preside at next meeting.

4) Ruth proposed: Compromise regarding use of Robert's Rules of Order - meetings to be conducted informally unless majority vote of those in attendance call for Robert's Rules.

5) The Treasurer shall be public contact for the organization.

6) New Constitution voted on and adopted.

7) Officers for the next meeting:

    Chairperson . . . . George Rey
    Vice Chairperson . . . . Tom Robbins
    Recording Secretary   Manny Quintero

8) Topic for next meeting -- EXCHANGE by Tom Robbins.

9) General discussion followed (of short duration to help implement our "new direction."

    Respectfully Submitted,

Stan Guttenberg
"Volunteer" Recording Secretary

Russians to Get E-Mail

From the National Science Foundation

A simple communications link with the outside world is proving to be one of the most valuable resources any scientist in the former Soviet Union (FSU) can have.

Through *e-mail,* a scientist can contact international counterparts, compare data, collaborate on publications, arrange to attend conferences, locate funding for continued research, and access hundreds of databases through the *Internet,* which is due in Moscow later this year.

E-mail is the most cost-effective, rapid, and reliable avenue to and from the FSU. All users need is a a PC, a modem, an affordable *e-mail* account, and access to a telephone line---an outlay of about $2,000 for the first year.

The most popular word processing program in the FSU is Lexicon, which can be utilized on most US-oriented PC's, though it cannot be used yet on the German QL's. Lexicon supports both English and Cyrillic characters and has a help menu in both languages for novice users.

Most obstacles to implementing *e-mail* systems in the FSU have not been technical, as most westerners might expect. Rather, computer-user-phobia is the most common problem: potential users are afraid to touch the computer, and have the misconception that all computer users are geniuses.

This all lasts about as long as it takes the potential user to send and receive the first on-line message as the direct result of pushing buttons on the keyboard in the correct, logical sequence. After having accomplished this, the users rightfully become certified experts in their own eyes!

Sarah Fisher on the Internet

by C. H. Dickson

Sarah Fisher gave a superb presentation on the *Internet* to July's overflow gathering of CATS enthusiasts.

Fortunately enough for everybody, all of **Sarah's** supporting pieces fell neatly into place at the appointed time. First and foremost, the telephone jack in the main meeting room was---for the fifth month in a row---unexplainably "live". One-hundred feet of RX-11 telephone cord was quickly produced, and the jack was linked to **Herb Schaff's** QL/modem in the small meeting room.

The Kodak Datashow, which was cleverly reconstructed by **Herb**, worked flawlessly as it grabbed the screen from **Herb's** QL and projected it onto a library wall. Then **Herb** and **Duane Parker** fiddled with Q_Link until **Sarah** was able to dial up the College Park Campus of the University of Maryland, precisely at 2 p.m.

Sarah sketched some of the background of the *Internet,* which was born in 1969 as a Pentagon experiment to help researchers trade information. It is today a loose confederation of 1.5 million users linked by about 12,000 large and small networks. Costs of running it seem to be borne happily so far by large organizations and institutions, such as the National Science Foundation.

The growth of the Internet has not been logical or rational, but as **Sarah** says, rather chaotic. Still, it holds a fatal fascination for a certain breed of computer hacker, though others have certainly made good use of it, as was the original intent.

Large library systems are generally on the *Internet* bandwagon already. Besides providing network services of their own, libraries can act as a gateway to the *Internet*.

Sarah brought up a screen for the "Puppy Project", which is part of the Seymour System. The Seymour System is an ambitious undertaking in Maryland which, by 1997, should have all libraries in the state on a fiber-optic information network.

Several screens were explored by the group, the most popular of which was "Search the *Internet"*.

Sarah produced a handout of how to dial into the UM/CP system from home. There are no security restrictions and there is no cost to connect, save a local phone call. All you need is a QL rigged up with a modem.

Sarah commented that the proposed Maryland information network may seem to be start-of-the art to many, but she has observed at national librarians' meetings that there are almost a dozen other states (none of them large) that seem to be exponentially ahead of us.

An acid test of the acceptance of the Seymour System could conceivably be the day when **Bob Diggs** goes to the Cecil County Library, sits down at an emulation of a VT-100 terminal, and accesses the files of---or sends a message to---a ham radio enthusiast in a suburb of Moscow! All free!!

Newsletter Submissions

My goal in editing this newsletter is to reflect the interests and activities of CATS, and to share those interests with our membership. Therefore, the policy of this newsletter is to print ALL original articles written and submitted by members.

To get them to me, either beam them in to the BBS @ (301) 588-0579, or mail hardcopy or 5 1/4" disk to: Mark Fisher, 700 Erie Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912. Hardcopy will be printed as submitted - no re-typing!

The QL Hacker's Journal is newsletter dedicated to supporting all QL programmers and is published as a service to the QL community by Tim Swenson.

The QHJ is freely distributable in whole or part as long a mention is made of where the material came from.

EDITOR'S FORUM   By Tim Swenson

It's been a few months since the last QHJ, but I've been busy working on a few projects and doing some traveling.

In early June I traveled to Newport, Rhode Island to attend the "Miracle in Newport 93" QL show. There I was able to meet some QL'ers that I have not met before, plus renew acquaintances with those that I have met but not seen in a while. Attendance was fairly good. I was pleased to see that three vendors from the UK were able to make it. Stuart Honeyball of Miracle, Tony Firshman of T.F. Services, and Bill Richardson (can't remember what company he owned) provided a few new Sinclair stories for all to enjoy.

The hit of the show was the new QXL card. I must admit that I did not take a close look at it, knowing that my pocket book was not ready for it (plus I don't have a PC to run it on). Some people were hesitant to buy, knowing that it is so new and not quite

ready (I believe the Basic is still being worked on). But, there was one buyer who braved the waters and bought a full QXL (It can handle 8 Meg of memory, but comes with various amounts of memory, so you can buy memory on the local market).

The most entertaining story was the one Bill Richardson told about Sir Clive. About a year and a half ago, Bill ran across Sir Clive, whom he had known for some time. Sir Clive asked Bill what he was doing, and Bill mentioned that he was selling hardware and software for Sir Clive's computers. "You mean the Z88", said Sir Clive. "No, the QL", replied Bill. Sir Clive's answer was "The what?" It seems Sir Clive had forgotten all about the QL.

While on the subject of Sir Clive, I happened to see a .sig file from a Sinclair fan (can't remember who it was) that said "If only Clive Sinclair was Bill Gates, and vice versa". Kind of makes you think.

From page 4

Then came my upheaval at work, and I found my self headed "on the road" for several weeks at a time. I looked forward to letters home, but there was the delay of the mails. We agreed that letters gave each of us something tangible to look at, and decided to try using the club's BBS as a message base. I could always mail or FAX material if I couldn't get through. I got a FAX-MODEM that would work with my laptop.

It worked, but, as many club members have learned, things aren't always 100% on the BBS. By the time I found myself in Hawaii, things wouldn't even connect! FAX to the rescue! Using my FAX ability, I could directly connect from Hawaii to Takoma Park, and leave a letter for Sarah that she would find when she arrived at work the next day. Somehow, perhaps a newer signal protocol, FAX machines will connect when MODEMs won't.

Moral: If you don't need to send random FAXes of paper documents, the FAX connection from your (cheap) computer port

MONEY and MODEMS
by George Rey

The convergence of computer and communications technology offer investment prospects. Could keep you away from IBM's at their tops. There are mutual stock funds, open and closed-end types, that specialize and invest only in telecom or computer tech stocks. Even I entered into computer stocks once -- lost my shirt. So beware.

In the U.S.A we have one telephone per each two people. In the emerging and third world countries they have one per more than ten people. As telecom systems are utilities with monopoly status coupled with the growth room available in growing economies they are popular in Wall Street as growth investments.

In the U.S.A. we have giant AT&T, Motorola, Tel-Communications, Intel, Microsoft, National Semiconductor, Texas Instruments, McCaw Cellular, Qualcomm, Cellular Vision, etc., and of course all the regional Bells. AT&T is selling its services overseas to upgrade telephone services and infrastructures, in China and SE Asia. Motorola has a joint venture going with Japanese firms to explore cellular comm using satellite relays. Then there are the 'baby' Bells who recently proposed a $125 Billion project to build the 'Info Roads' to the future if the Feds give them cable TV rights. Of course the Cable boys are committing themselves to a multi-billion dollar project to also upgrade and expand their charters to fiber.

At present highway patrolmen can scan your fingerprint, radio it to HQ'ers, which searches FBI files and sends the results to the patrolmen in a few minutes. Don't get caught speeding as they will get a bead on you in no time.

If investing turns you on get involved with 'Cyberspace' -- an electronic world thriving with a dizzying array of financial information services. On-line you trade stocks and bonds, read an abbreviated version of the Money section of USA Today for free, download historical stock quotes or capture them in 'real time' from a radio signal. You can also find what's called 'Shareware' software programs -- where you pay for the program if you keep it -- to spot bull or bear markets or chart price tends.

About 20% of the members of the Association of Individual Investors (AAII) say they used electronic brokers last year -- a 102% increase over 1991. And 50% of its members, in 1991, tapped into on-line financial services. Maybe CATS can join the AAII, use its on-line info to dump their info into our bulletin board where each of us interested can tap it as desired. Then there is the Dow Jones News/Retrieval and Compuserve services for a fee which I explored a score years ago and decided it was to costly for me.

So your modem for now can give you access to much beyond your personal data bank. On top of it all you can buy into other data banks for a fee.

Of course there is the mysterious 'Internet Network' -- black market underground data banks? Or is it a free source of oodles of info if you know how to tap it? We heard from one of our members on this subject last month. Should we hear more?

Next time I want to tackle the subject of digital communication.

From page 6
to their (expensive) FAX machine is a can't lose proposition. And you don't even need to buy paper for the thing!

Sneaky sidelight. Naturally, this is the REST of the computer world that can do this - my laptop's a IBM clone. But the FAX-MODEM itself just hooks into a serial port. Does anyone know of QL software to drive such an accessory?
MTF

CATS Newsletter
P.O. Box 11017
Takoma Park, MD 20913

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Capital Beltway

B-W Pkway

New Carrollton Public Library

Hwy 450

Hwy 410
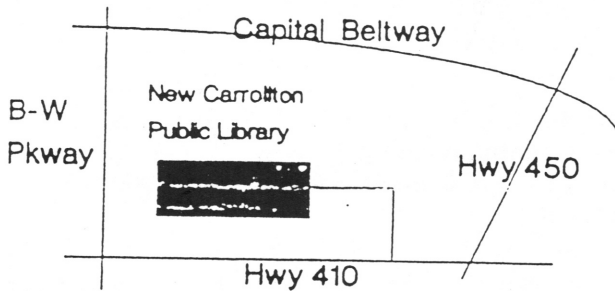
The next meeting of CATS will be held on: **August 14, 1993**
12:00 M Hardware Workshop
2:00 PM General Meeting

At: New Carrollton ~~Not this month! (See Page One)~~ 10), New Carrollton, MD

IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER OF CATS. THIS IS THE ONLY ISSUE YOU WILL RECEIVE